

Amendments to the Claims

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing daily visual indications relating to various phases of a woman's menstrual cycle, said apparatus comprising:

a string;

a first bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the first day of a menses phase of the woman's menstrual cycle, the first bead being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a plurality of second beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day of the menses phase, the second beads having a different appearance from the first bead and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a third bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the day the woman's menses phase crosses over to a fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle, the third bead having a different appearance from the first and second beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a plurality of fourth beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day of the fertile phase, the fourth beads having a different appearance from the first, second and third beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a fifth bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the day the woman's cervical mucus begins drying up, the fifth bead having a different appearance from the first, second, third, and fourth beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a plurality of sixth beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day the woman's cervical mucus is drying up, the sixth beads having a different appearance from the first, second, third, fourth and fifth beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a seventh bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the first day of an infertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle, the seventh bead having a different appearance from the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at

the end of the woman's menstrual cycle; and

a plurality of eighth beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day of the infertile phase, the eighth beads having a different appearance from the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein there is a total of four of the second beads.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein there is a total of three of the sixth beads.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 further comprising:

an ovulation prediction kit for determining the day during the fertile phase when a level of luteinizing hormone released by the woman's pituitary gland surges; and

a ninth bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the day when the luteinizing hormone level surges, the ninth bead having a different appearance from the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16 further comprising:

a plurality of tenth beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate days on which the woman engages in a coital act, the tenth beads having a different appearance from the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth beads and being ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein:

the first bead is of a first color;

the second beads are of the first color and are smaller in size than the first bead;

the third bead is of the first color, a second color, and a third color and is larger in size than the second beads;

the fourth beads are of the second color;
the fifth bead is of the second color and the third color and is larger in size than the sixth beads;
the sixth beads are of the second color and the third color and are smaller in size than the fifth bead;
the seventh bead is of the third color and is shaped differently from the eighth beads; and
the eighth beads are of the third color.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein:
the first bead is of a first color;
the second beads are of the first color and are smaller in size than the first bead;
the third bead is of the first color, a second color, and a third color and is larger in size than the second beads;
the fourth beads are of the second color;
the fifth bead is of the second color and the third color and is larger in size than the sixth beads;
the sixth beads are of the second color and the third color and are smaller in size than the fifth bead;
the seventh bead is of the third color and is shaped differently from the eighth beads;
the eighth beads are of the third color; and
the ninth bead is of the second color and is shaped differently from the fourth beads.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein:
the first bead is of a first color;
the second beads are of the first color and are smaller in size than the first bead;
the third bead is of the first color, a second color, and a third color and is larger in size than the second beads;
the fourth beads are of the second color;
the fifth bead is of the second color and the third color and is larger in size than the sixth beads;
the sixth beads are of the second color and the third color and are smaller in size than the

fifth bead;

the seventh bead is of the third color and is shaped differently from the eighth beads;
the eighth beads are of the third color;
the ninth bead is of the second color and is shaped differently from the fourth beads; and
the tenth beads are of a fourth color.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that provides daily visual indications relating to various phases of a woman's menstrual cycle, said apparatus comprising:

an ovulation prediction kit for determining the day during a fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle when a level of luteinizing hormone released by the woman's pituitary gland surges;

a string;

a first type of bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the first day of a menses phase of the woman's menstrual cycle and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a plurality of a second type of beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day of the menses phase and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a third type of bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the day the woman's menses phase crosses over to a fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a plurality of a fourth type of beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day of the fertile phase and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a fifth type of bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the day the woman's cervical mucus begins drying up and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a plurality of a sixth type of beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day the woman's cervical mucus is drying up and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a seventh type of bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the first day of an

infertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;

a plurality of an eighth type of beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate each additional day of the infertile phase and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle; and

a ninth type of bead ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate the day when the luteinizing hormone level surges based on a result from the ovulation prediction kit and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle;:

wherein each of said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth types of beads are different in appearance from one another in at least one of color, shape, and size.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein there is a total of four of the second beads.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein there is a total of three of the sixth beads.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein:
the first type of bead is of a first color;
the second type of beads are of the first color and are smaller in size than the first type of bead;
the third type of bead is of the first color, a second color, and a third color and is larger in size than the second type of beads;

the fourth type of beads are of the second color;

the fifth type of bead is of the second color and the third color and is larger in size than the sixth type of beads;

the sixth type of beads are of the second color and the third color and are smaller in size than the fifth type of bead;

the seventh type of bead is of the third color and is shaped differently from the eighth type of beads;

the eighth type of beads are of the third color; and
the ninth type of bead is of the second color and is shaped differently from the fourth type of beads.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 21 further comprising:
a plurality of a tenth type of beads ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate days on which the woman engages in a coital act and ~~removable~~removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein:
the first type of bead is of a first color;
the second type of beads are of the first color and are smaller in size than the first type of bead;
the third type of bead is of the first color, a second color, and a third color and is larger in size than the second type of beads;
the fourth type of beads are of the second color;
the fifth type of bead is of the second color and the third color and is larger in size than the sixth type of beads;
the sixth type of beads are of the second color and the third color and are smaller in size than the fifth type of bead;
the seventh type of bead is of the third color and is shaped differently from the eighth type of beads;
the eighth type of beads are of the third color;
the ninth type of bead is of the second color and is shaped differently from the fourth type of beads; and
the tenth type of beads are of a fourth color.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that provides daily visual indications relating to various phases of a woman's menstrual cycle, said apparatus comprising:

a string;
a plurality of beads, each bead being ~~positionable~~positioned on the string to indicate

different days of the woman's menstrual cycle and ~~removable~~ removed from the string at the end of the woman's menstrual cycle, the plurality of beads including:

~~two types~~ a first type and a second type of the beads associated with a menses phase of the woman's menstrual cycle;

~~two types~~ a third type and a fourth type of the beads associated with a fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle one of which is associated with the day the woman's menses phase crosses over to a fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle, wherein the type of bead associated with the day the woman's menses phase crosses over to the fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle is orientable in at least three different orientations on the string to indicate a result of an observation of the woman's cervical mucus;

~~two types~~ a fifth type and a sixth type of the beads associated with days on which the woman's cervical mucus is drying up; and

~~two types~~ a seventh type and an eighth type of the beads associated with an infertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle;:

wherein each of said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth types of beads are different in appearance from one another in at least one of color, shape, and size.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 further comprising:

an ovulation prediction kit for determining the day during a fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle when a level of luteinizing hormone released by the woman's pituitary gland surges; and

wherein the plurality of beads further includes:

a type of bead associated with the day when the luteinizing hormone level surges.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the plurality of beads further includes:

a type of bead associated with days on which the woman engages in a coital act.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the type of bead associated with the day the woman's menses phase crosses over to a fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle comprises:

a tri-color bead having three holes formed therethrough, wherein:

 a first one of the holes includes an opening in a first color portion of the tri-color bead, the first color portion being associated with a continued menstrual bleeding result of the observation;

 a second one of the holes includes an opening in a second color portion of the tri-color bead, the second color portion being associated with a dry or absent cervical mucus result of the observation; and

 a third one of the holes includes an opening in a third color portion of the tri-color bead, the third color portion being associated with a sticky or egg-white cervical mucus result of the observation.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein:

 the two types of beads associated with the menses phase of the woman's menstrual cycle comprise a larger bead of a first color and a plurality of smaller beads of the first color;

 one of the types of beads associated with the fertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle comprises a plurality of beads of a second color;

 the two types of beads associated with days on which the woman's cervical mucus is drying up comprise a larger bead of the second color and a third color and a plurality of smaller beads of the second color and the third color; and

 the two types of beads associated with an infertile phase of the woman's menstrual cycle comprise a plurality of beads of the third color and a differently shaped bead of the third color.